CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Brother Ennis Pruitt, Sr.

FROM LABOR:
February 26, 1921

TO REWARD:
July 11, 2006

Services Held:
Tuesday, July 18, 2006, 11:00 A.M.

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church
684 Juliga Woods Street
Richmond, CA 94804-4156
Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine, Pastor-Elect

Reverend John H. Green, Officiating

Precious Memories

Ennis Pruitt, Sr.

Ennis is at peace. He leaves us much to be grateful for: wonderful memories, a beautiful family and a yard landscaped and orderly; just as Ennis' steps were ordered by the Lord.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."
--Psalms 37:23

He was born February 26, 1921 to Henry and Annie Warren Allen-Pruitt in Linden, TX. Ennis received his formal education in the Linden, TX public school system. He was baptized in 1936, at the age of 16, at the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Linden by the late Reverend Otis Warren.

Ennis moved to Diboll, TX in 1940. There he met the love of his life—Miss Naomi Marie Mathies. On Christmas Day 1941, Ennis and Naomi pledged their love and allegiance in marriage – till death do them part. They would have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this year.

Ennis served in the United States Army's 92nd Infantry Division, receiving an honorable discharge in 1943.

Ennis moved to Oakland, CA in 1944 to seek work and a better life for his wife and infant son, Ennis Jr. During the ensuing years, the Lord also blessed the family with Rickey, Patricia Ann, Deborah Renee and Kenneth Ray.

The Pruitt family moved to Richmond, CA in July 1947. Ennis, unlike any other man, enjoyed creating art in his yard and beautifying his home—everything had to be neat! He could fix just about anything! He was talented in landscaping, carpentry, electrical, and concrete work, which he did before and after working his jobs. He still found time to teach his children and grandchildren integrity, how to handle business, family pride (he was proud of the Pruitt family name), and ***"THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS I CAN'T!"*** and other valuable life lessons.

In 1948, he united with Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Reverend Nathaniel Phanor and continued under the loving spiritual care of Dr. A. H. Newman.

He was an active member of the Laymen's Ministry and a highly competitive member of the Adult Men's Church School class. A godly man, he made sure his grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended church school—he brought them himself. He was recently quoted as saying "Bethlehem has the best Sunday School in the Bay Area and it BETTER stay that way!" and, "Church School better act right because I will have both fists balled up!!" He was also known to say, "The Men's Class has to get those banners!" He served as secretary of both ministries and also served as a member of the Church Finance ministry.

A true Christian and family man, Ennis was never afraid of work—he worked to provide the BEST for his wife and family. He and his wife worked opposing shifts to ensure their children did not have to depend on outside childcare. He was employed at the Oakland Army Base, the Veterans and Kaiser Permanente Hospitals in Oakland. He was hired as the first Black employee in Contra Costa County's Public Works Department in 1954, retiring in 1971.

He was a 32nd degree Master Mason and past Master of Sons of Love Lodge No. 35 in Richmond, CA, of which he was a life member. He also served as Treasurer of the Lodge for many years. He served in the upper houses, consisting of Mecca Temple No. 20 in Oakland, CA, the Royal Arch, Knights Templar, Lodge of Perfection and Consistory, until his health prevented him from attending meetings.

Ennis was taken up to Glory by his Lord and Savior on Tuesday morning, July 11, 2006 at 9:23 a.m. at Kaiser Hospital in Richmond. He is resting with the Lord today. He was preceded by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pruitt, and sons Ennis Jr. and Rickey. He was also preceded by his brothers Henry Pruitt, Clinton Pruitt and Booker T. Pruitt (on April 22, 2006); and his sisters Lola Mae Collins, Magnolia Stevens, Gladys Williams, and infant Naomi Pruitt.

Ennis leaves to follow in the Lord's footsteps his beloved wife Naomi "Nomie" and three children: Patricia Ann Lewis and husband, Simeon, Jr., Deborah Renee Pruitt and Kenneth Ray Pruitt.

His grandchildren, who affectionately called him "PawPaw": Rochaune Denea Bertauche, Kevin Lamar Chiles, Karen Latrice Chiles, Darryl Ennis Pruitt, Laura Eileen Pruitt, Larelle Lamont Aldridge, Brigitte Shantrenee Edington, Kieven and Rickey Pruitt, Wise David Allen, Leah Allen-Lewis, Kevin Miguel Lewis, Lizza Simone Roy, Tony Vermont Lewis and Shon David Lewis. Great-grandchildren: Kiara Chenee Vaughn; Cordell Tyree Fields; Frenchele Marie Erving; Marcel Guillory, Jr.; Kieven Pruitt, Jr.; Kelvion Pruitt; La Vonte Larelle Aldridge and Larelle Lamar Aldridge Jr.

Also surviving are two brothers-in-law: Herman "Joe" Mathies and wife Shirley, Jennings "Tee" Carl Mathies and wife Gertie; and sisters-in-law: Imogene Pruitt, Lougenia Henson, Addie Belle Brewton, and Ellie Mathies.

Ennis will also be missed by his special cousins, Henry Pruitt and Olegurite P. Pruitt, a special friend, Rebecca Adams, his loving nieces, nephews, and a host of other family members; his many adopted sons and daughters, his Foothill Avenue and South 24th Street families, his lodge brethren, and his Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church family.

Ennis and Naomi – 65 years...

Order of Service

Processional.....Family

Scripture Readings.....Old Testament.....Reverend Bobby Mays
New Testament.....Reverend Willie Hodges

Invocation.....Reverend Willie J. Cooper, Jr.

Praise in Song.....*"He Kept Me"*.....Mrs. Pamela Onafowode

Expressions.....(2 Minutes Please).....Family and Friends
Led by Mr. Anthony McCray
Mr. Kevin Bliss
Ms. Elizabeth Lane

Expressions of Love from the Pulpit.....

Praise in Song.....*"Lift Him Up"*.....Bethlehem Choir

Acknowledgement of Condolences.....Mrs. Waldenia Fallins

Resolutions.....Mrs. Bessie J. McKindley

Praise in Song.....*"Turn on the Light"*.....The Hartfield Family

Obituary.....Ms. Delores Murray

Praise in Song.....*"Talk About a Child That Do Love Jesus"*.....Mrs. Camille Hudson

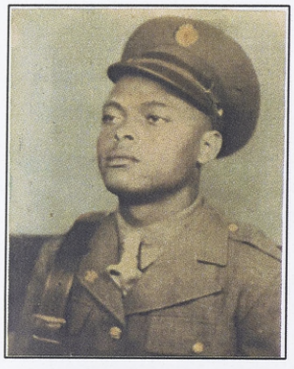
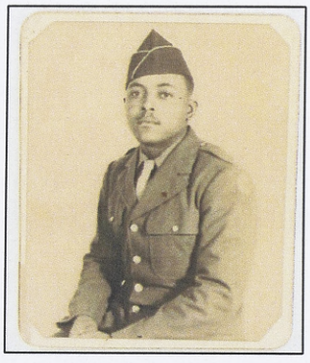
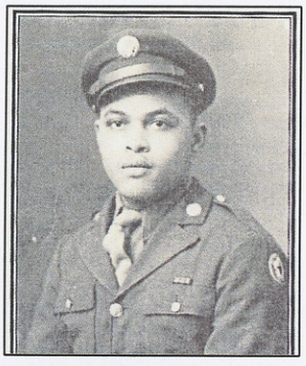
Eulogy.....Reverend John H. Green
Pastor, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church
Richmond, CA

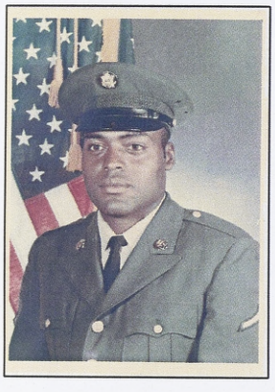
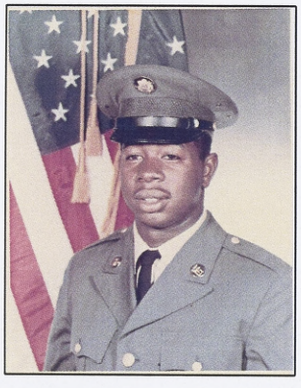
Parting View.....Fuller Funeral Service
"He's Blessing Me" Mr. Norris Garner

Recessional.....Family

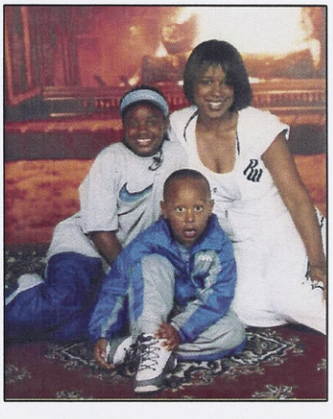
Interment
Rolling Hills Memorial Park
Richmond, California

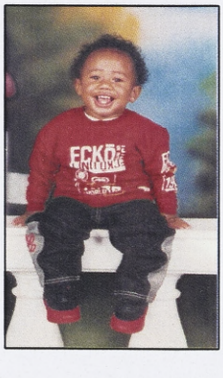
Precious Memories

Precious Memories





ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Leon Martin
Melvin Davis
Anthony McCray
Lloyd Harmon
Havert Hill
Joe Prince

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Henry Pruitt
George Pruitt
Thomas G. Pruitt
Lawrence Pruitt
Simeon Lewis, Jr.
Esteen Blanchard
Willis Burnett
Lacey Tibbs
Morris Marshall
Oscar Bell, Jr.
Lonnie Washington
Juan Guzman

The Adult Men's Church School Class and
Officers of the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

Through it all, I've learned to depend upon His Word…

All night, I wouldn't give up, All night, I wouldn't let go, All night, I just held on
I called on the Lord all night long and I wouldn't let go until he blessed my soul, I'm a witness that he came through.

I wrestled with the angels all night long; He wouldn't let go til the break of dawn
Said you gotta bless me before you leave, I felt the same way when I was on my knees
I asked the Lord to help me to be strong; I called him all night long.

Acknowledgement

The Family of Ennis Pruitt, Sr. wishes to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for each lovely card, each comforting word, each visit to our grieved abode, each lovely flower, each gracious prayer. To all who know our burden share, accept our thanks and gratitude. Your kindness means far more than words can ever tell!
--The Pruitt Family

Services Entrusted to:

Fuller Funerals, Inc. Mortuary
3100 Cutting Boulevard
Richmond, California 94804
510.237.5473

Programs by PAL